

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended herein for clarification. Support for the amendment is provided in the specification and figs., for example, Figs. 3 and 4. No new matter has been entered.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura (US 6,653,230). "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987); MPEP 2131.

Claim 1 recites a method of manufacturing a memory cell comprising, *inter alia*, the step of forming a doped polysilicon plug so as to define an upwardly curved upper plug surface profile in contact with the bit line, wherein said upwardly curved upper plug surface profile extends from an uppermost extent of one insulating side wall to an uppermost extent of an opposing insulating side wall such that said upwardly curved upper plug surface profile is at least partially above the opposing insulating side walls.

Nakamura fails to teach or suggest all elements of the claims. Referring to Fig. 6b of Nakamura, Nakamura teaches bit line conductive plugs 14 with rectangular shapes and flat surface profiles, not upwardly curved profiles as shown in Figs. 3 and 4 of the present application. None of the bit line conductive plugs 14 shown in the figures of Nakamura display a surface profile having a surface that curves or bulges upward, as in the claimed polysilicon plug.

Moreover, Nakamura's use of the word "convex" does not teach or suggest a curved upper plug surface profile as recited in claim 1. Nakamura uses terms "concave" and "convex" to describe electrodes 13 and 14. As Nakamura uses the terms, "concave" illustrates that the pair of storage electrodes 13 have a groove or tunnel extending between the pair of electrodes 13, whereas "convex" illustrates that electrode 14 lacks this groove or tunnel portion. The word "convex" fails to describe the surface profile of the bit line plug 14, and thus fails to teach or suggest an upwardly curved *upper plug surface profile*, much less an upwardly curved upper plug surface profile extending from an uppermost extent of one insulating side wall to an uppermost extent of an opposing insulating side wall such that said upwardly curved upper plug surface profile is at least partially above the opposing insulating side walls as claimed.

For all of the above reasons, Nakamura does not anticipate claim 1 and its dependents thereon. Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned to resolve efficiently any formal matters or to discuss any aspects of the application or of this response. Otherwise, early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

DINSMORE & SHOHL LLP

By /Matthew Molloy/
Matthew A. Molloy
Registration No. 56,415

One Dayton Centre
One South Main Street, Suite 1300
Dayton, Ohio 45402
Telephone: (937) 449-6400
Facsimile: (937) 449-6405
e-mail: matthew.molloy@dinslaw.com

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